U.S., Canada Fight Dope Influx

By Jack Anderson

Chinese dope magnates in Bangkok, Hong Kong and Singapore have joined forces with Mafia overlords from Corsica to flood the U.S. and Canada with heroin.

Millions worth of the lethal powder have already been smuggled into North America in body packs strapped to Chinese ship jumpers and in attache cases of diplomats.

To stop the smuggling, alarmed American agents and Canadian mounties have also joined forces. Their undercover effort is known by the code name, "Operation Sea Wall."

The fascinating story is told in a classified report, which describes how a staggering $220 million worth of heroin piled up in secret Asian warehouses after the U.S. troop withdrawals from Vietnam.

The departure of their GI customers left the Chinese drug traffickers with a huge surplus of joy dust on their hands. The heroin had been flowing into their warehouses from the "Golden Triangle" of Thailand, Laos and Burma.

At hushed meetings in their lacquered drawing rooms and counting houses, the Chinese concluded they would have to follow their customers home and open new markets in America. Or, as the secret report puts it, they decided "to try their 'joss' (luck) in a new area."

The Chinese syndicate made contact with the Corsican Mafia, whose smuggling organization had been moving heroin from Europe to New York. A federal crackdown had closed many of their underground routes, so the Corsicans were looking for new connections.

Corsican Connection

They jetted to Asia and struck a deal with the Chinese. The secret report suggests that the Chinese-Corsican talks confirmed "the long-standing, heretofore unverifiable reports of a Chinese-Corsican connection . . ."

Learning of the ominous new entente, federal narcotics czar John Ingersoll took the lead in setting up "Operation Sea Wall" on April 7. He enlisted the assistance of the Central Intelligence Agency, Immigration Service and the Canadian mounties.

Their purpose: "to interdict the flow of heroin from the Far East before it reaches even more serious proportions."

Only four days later, government agents arrested seven Chinese in New York City, six of them ship jumpers. The seven sullen smugglers carried heroin worth $500,000.

This New York haul, according to the secret report, was a mere fraction of a $4.5 million shipment "which originated in Bangkok and was evidently delivered by a European diplomat assigned to Thailand. Sensitive sources have revealed that more shipments, sponsored by other groups, are on the way. Arrests are anticipated."

The Chinese seamen, most of them from non-Communist Asian countries, have been slipping into Canada and the U.S. in increasing numbers. The smugglers sneak ashore from foreign flag ships often with as much as $100,000 to $200,000 worth of heroin strapped to their bodies.

"The typical Chinese seaman, who smuggles heroin, brings one to two kilograms each trip," reports the secret document. "He can easily body pack or conceal this amount in his bags. (He) has bought the contraband in Hong Kong, paying $2,000 to $3,700 a kilogram.

The Pay-Off

"With the proceeds acquired from accomplishing this task, he can fade into one of the many Chinese communities in the United States." Indeed, the report adds: "In several instances, the heroin was carried to provide payments for shelter and assistance to the illegal emigre."

Hundreds of ship jumpers have paid to get private legislation pushed through Congress, permitting them to remain in the country.

In Miami, a Chinese seaman was caught with ten kilograms of heroin—about $1 million worth—last April. It was "packed in plastic bags carrying the familiar 'Double Uoglobe' brand name, indicating it was produced in a heroin laboratory in Laos."

In addition to Miami, Asian heroin has been smuggled into the U.S. through Vancouver, San Francisco and New York. The secret report also cites Seattle and Portland as "probable" operation centers.

In addition to the ship jumpers, says the document, "Bangkok dealers have employed individuals with diplomatic passports to deliver as much as 20 kilograms of heroin at a time to the U.S.

"A case in point is Philippine diplomat Domingo Canieso, arrested . . . in New York City in possession of 17 kilograms of 'Double Uoglobe' heroin, along with his controller from Bangkok, Chou Hsiu-ch'ien.

"This was Canieso's third trip to the U.S. At least one previous time he was accompanied by a known Chinese heroin dealer in Bangkok."

Footnote: The State Department has put out misleading, softsoap statements about the rush of heroin into the U.S. from Asia. It was to counter this Pollyana attitude that we decided to break secrecy on "Operation Sea Wall."

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